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*IPC - Standards & Codes*

OPTIONAL FORM NO.  
5010-104

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Information Processing Coordinator, DD/S

DATE:

10 DEC 1969

FROM : Director of Communications

SUBJECT: Proposed USA Standard Keyboard Arrangements

REF : Your memorandum dated 7 November 1969, subject as above

1. The Office of Communications has no objection to the adoption of the proposed USA standard keyboard arrangements. In response to the call for oral replies to the reference, our acceptance was relayed by telephone to the Chairman, Information Processing Board on 20 November.

2. With regard to the second question posed by the reference, the Office of Communications considers the adoption of an American National standard a prerequisite to the adoption of a Federal standard. If Document X4/65 is defeated, we urge that action on a Federal standard be deferred until full accord is reached at the National level. Federal keyboard standards should be based in whole, or in part, upon the USA standards.

3. Assuming, however, that the proposed USA standard is accepted, a single keyboard arrangement is adequate insofar as the Office of Communications is concerned. The typewriter-paired arrangement is our first choice for a Federal standard. Nevertheless, we would not oppose the adoption of both arrangements if the Federal Government can not agree on a single keyboard.

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*1 cc to chairman IP Board 12/15/69*  
*RHW*

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